I claim:

1. A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces; and

a discrete skin adherent, elastomeric gel layer disposed along the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said elastomeric gel layer having a plurality of through extending apertures arranged in a pattern.

2. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein a proximal surface of the elastomeric gel layer is substantially planar.

3. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric gel layer is directly applied to the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

4. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures have a generally circular cross-section.

5. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the pattern of apertures comprises an array of equally spaced apertures.

6. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric gel layer is disposed only about a central portion of the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

7. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric layer comprises a cross-linked silicone gel.

8. The wound dressing according to claim 7, wherein the apertures are generally uniform in size.

9. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric gel layer penetrates surface irregularities along the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

10. The wound dressing according to claim 7, wherein the silicone gel includes a skin treatment agent selected from the group consisting of aloe vera and petroleum jelly.

11. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric gel layer includes at least one additive agent selected from the group consisting of: anti-fungal agents, anti-bacterial agents, hemostatic agents, disinfectant agents, deodorizing agents, anesthetic agents, angregenesis agents and analgesic agents.

12. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the pattern of apertures of the elastomeric gel layer is defined as varying in number per unit area relative to their position to a central axis of the absorbent core.

13. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures vary in size according to their location relative to a position of each of said apertures to a central axis of the absorbent core.

14. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the number of apertures per unit area corresponding to a central portion of the absorbent core is greater than at portions corresponding to the absorbent core located outside the central portion.

15. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures vary in size.

16. The wound dressing according to claim 15, wherein the pattern of the apertures is defined as arrays of alternating apertures of at least two different sizes.

17. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric gel layer has regions of varying thickness.

18. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core comprises a hydrophilic polyurethane foam with a plurality of open pores along the proximal side thereof.

19. The wound dressing according to claim 18, wherein the elastomeric gel layer bridges said open pores of the absorbent core.

20. The wound dressing according to claim 18, wherein the elastomeric gel layer only extends into surface irregularities of the absorbent core.